

# Understanding Your City's CVRA Options: 2015 Update

**October 1, 2015**

**League of CA Cities, Annual Conference**

**San Jose, CA | 8:00 – 9:30 am**

# Today's Panelists

Moderator, Hal Conklin

- Past President, League of California Cities, Former Mayor, Santa Barbara

Marguerite Leoni

- Attorney, Nielsen Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni

Bill Marble

- Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Woodland

# Agenda

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8:00 Welcome; Interactive Exercise

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8:15 Understanding the California Voting Rights Act | Marguerite

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8:45 City of Woodland Case Story | Bill

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9:05 Question and Answer Session

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9:30 Adjourn

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# Your Experience

To what degree is  
the CVRA an issue  
in your city?

- Share with your neighbor
- Report out (very briefly)

# **Hal Conklin, Board Member Institute for Local Government**



# ILG Mission

- Promoting good government at the local level
- Practical, impartial and easy-to-use materials

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**Local**  
**Government**



# Working Together

Collaborative efforts make local governments more effective and efficient. Working together helps create healthy and vibrant communities for all Californians.

[Read more »](#)





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# City of Turlock District Elections

**Community:** [City of Turlock \(Stanislaus County\)](#)

**Population:** 70,365

## Summary

Communities throughout California hold either at-large elections or district based elections. With the passage of the [California Voting Rights Act \(CVRA\)](#) in 2001, every community has an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. The City of Turlock received a letter in 2013 from a local political community group warning of a possible CVRA violation. In response, the city council voted in June 2014 to put Measure A, a district elections measure, on the November 2014 ballot. A robust community outreach process was conducted by the city and its community partners. Turlock residents passed Measure A, approving a move to district based elections, by a large majority.

## Program Highlights

- > Effective Meetings
- > Ethics & Transparency
- > Healthy Communities, Land Use and Planning
- ✓ **Inclusive Community Engagement**
  - > The Basics of Public Engagement
  - Increasing Outreach
  - > Immigrant Engagement and Integration
  - Partnering with Community Based Organizations
  - Engaging Clergy and Congregations
  - > Assessing Public Engagement
  - Case Stories
- > Leadership and Governance
- > New to Public Service
- > Recycling
- > Technology

community engagement resources will point you in the right direction.

## The Basics of Public Engagement

Information and resources about the "basics" of public engagement benefits, principles, design, and other related topics to help local and regional agencies successfully involve residents and others in local public decision-making.

[Read more »](#)

## Going Beyond the Usual Participants

Research, resources and case stories to help ensure that participation in public engagement efforts more reflect the demographics of your community.

This includes information about ways to work with community partners to engage a broader cross section of community, including youth and immigrant residents, as well as how to work more effectively with clergy and congregations.

[Read more »](#)

## Immigrant Engagement and Integration

Resources and case stories to help local officials in California successfully engage and integrate immigrant residents into the civic and public life of their communities. Also see information about pathways for local permanent residents to achieve U.S. citizenship, and strategies for local officials to support these citizenship efforts and to engage new citizens in their community.

**Attorney, Nielsen Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni**

**MARGUERITE LEONI**

**Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Woodland**

**BILL MARBLE**

**QUESTIONS?**

**COMMENTS?**



**Thank You**